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STATE ANNOUNCES 2005 TREE CITY USA COMMUNITIES AND TREE LINE USA AWARD WINNERS

Seventy-six Massachusetts communities received the 2005 Tree City USA Award in ceremonies held today at the State House in Boston. Executive Office of Environmental Affairs Secretary Ellen Roy Herzfelder and Department of Conservation and Recreation Acting Commissioner Stephen R. Pritchard presented the awards given by the National Arbor Day Foundation in recognition of communities, of any size, that are making a commitment to community trees and forests.

Three Massachusetts utility companies – NStar, Chicopee Electric Light and National Grid – received Tree Line USA Awards in recognition of meeting standards in Quality Tree Care, Ongoing Worker Training, and Tree Planting/Education Programs. DCR's Urban and Community Forestry Program administers the Tree City USA and Tree Line USA awards program.

"Massachusetts can be proud that it has the largest percentage of Tree City USA communities in all of New England and New York," said Secretary Roy Herzfelder. "These awards are a tribute to the municipal, corporate, non-profit and public partners who are working so hard to protect and expand our community and urban forests."

Tree City USA Awards recognize communities which meet four standards: having a tree board or tree department, spending at least \$2 per capita on urban forestry, enforcing laws that protect public trees and holding an Arbor Day celebration. The 2005 Tree City USA awards ceremony was hosted by the City of Boston with NStar sponsoring the awards luncheon.

During the ceremonies, Cambridge, Hanscom AFB, Lenox, Lowell, Marion and Worcester received special “Growth Awards” for improvements to their urban forestry programs during the previous year, and four first-time Tree City USA communities were honored: Billerica, Chelsea, Southampton, and Westfield.

In addition, Belmont and Reading received the Twentieth Year Award. Lynn received the Fifteenth Year Award. Marshfield, Somerville, and Needham were honored with their Tenth Year awards. Fifth Year Tree City USA winners included Bedford, Grafton, Ipswich, New Bedford, Scituate, Stoneham, Sutton, and Weymouth.

Below is the full list of all 2005 Tree City USA Award winners:

SOUTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS:

Bridgewater (8 years), Duxbury (14 years), Easton (17 years), Falmouth (8 years), Hingham (17 years), Marion (8 years), Marshfield (10 years), Nantucket (7 years), New Bedford (5 years), Orleans (7 years), Plymouth (16 years), Scituate (5 years), Sandwich (4 years), West Bridgewater (11 years).

NORTHEASTERN MASSACHUSETTS:

Amesbury (9 years), Andover (6 years), Beverly (4 years), Danvers (18 years), Gloucester (13 years), Haverhill (9 years), Ipswich (5 years), Lawrence (3 years), Lowell (8 years), Lynn (15 years), Manchester (17 years), Marblehead (6 years), Newburyport (9 years), Peabody (9 years), Salem (3 years), Stoneham (5 years), Saugus (6 years), Swampscott (14 years).

CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS:

Grafton (5 years), Groton (9 years), Leominster (7 years), Sutton (5 years), Worcester (19 years).

GREATER BOSTON/METRO WEST:

Arlington (3 years), Bedford (5 years), Belmont (20 years), Billerica (1 year), Boston (9 years), Brockton (7 years), Brookline (17 years), Cambridge (13 years), Chelsea (1 year), Framingham (14 years), Hanscom AFB (18 years), Lexington (16 years), Medford (7 years), Needham (10 years), Newton (16 years), Quincy (9 years), Reading (20 years), Sharon (13 years), Somerville (10 years), Stoneham (5 years), Wakefield (4 years), Walpole (2 years), Waltham (9 years), Watertown (14 years), Wellesley (22 years), Weston (2 years), Weymouth (5 years).

WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS:

Amherst (18 years), Chicopee (12 years), Dalton (6 years), Greenfield (3 years), Holyoke (4 years), Lenox (2 years), North Adams (9 years), Southampton (1 year), Springfield (19 years), Sturbridge (16 years), Westfield (1 year), Westover ARB (8 years), West Springfield (17 years).

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